

new york (City). Knoedler,

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Paintings of

## The Panama Canal

by

Jonas Lie

ON EXHIBITION

AT THE GALLERIES OF

M. KNOEDLER & COMPANY

556-558 Fifth Avenue

NEAR FORTY-SIXTH STREET, NEW YORK DEC. 29th TO JAN. 10th INCLUSIVE N these paintings Jonas Lie has attempted and achieved two things: to interpret the epic quality of the profound genius and the conquering labor that has gone into the building of the Panama Canal and to preserve a pictorial record of that stage of its making which lay between the plan and the fruition.

As a people we pay too little attention to pictorial art in the light of its historical importance, of its undying record of facts concerning our political and social history. It has been charged, in Austin Dobson's unanswerable phrase, that we have scant time for art's delays. And this is never more true in its application than when we are asked to concern ourselves with that imaginative quality in pictures on which all poetry must be based.

We are a people concerned with labor as all peoples must be who march forward in the world. The most conspicuous symbols of the genius of our labor are fabrics like the storied towers of Manhattan Island, the magic spans bridging the East River and the construction work on the Panama Canal. Yet it took foreign artists or Americans long domiciled abroad to reveal to us that these structures were things of beauty as well as utility.

And here again we have Labor made profoundly dramatic in terms of art much as Millet and Meunier made it impressive, grave, beautiful. But an epic in itself would be a poor thing if it were barren of historical importance. The sustaining qualities of Mr. Lie's pictures are that their epic preserves the greatest work of labor we have attempted as a nation. When we look at them we feel they are ours, that we took part in the making of them. And thus they enter, as all great art should, into our national consciouness, become the people's pictures.

W. B. M'C.

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